We Claim:

1.   An educational system, comprising:

an object having at least one visually recognizable symbol thereon;

an emitter within said object for emitting a signal uniquely representative of said at least one visually recognizable symbol; and

an enclosure, including:

a surface for supporting said object, and

a processor, including means for receiving said signal from said emitter, said processor capable of identifying said symbol from said signal, and capable of identifying a position of said object on said surface.

2.   An apparatus for entering data into a computer, the data being entered via the placement of a plurality of objects on the apparatus, each object having at least one unique item of detectable data associated therewith, comprising:

a surface for receiving the placement of an object;

one or more detectors capable of detecting the data associated with an object placed on the surface;

a line capable of communicating the detected data from the apparatus to the computer.

3. An apparatus as in claim 2 whereby the detectors are capable of detecting the location of an object on the surface.

add
a 2

add
B 2

add C5

add
1 2

add D1
add E2